



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

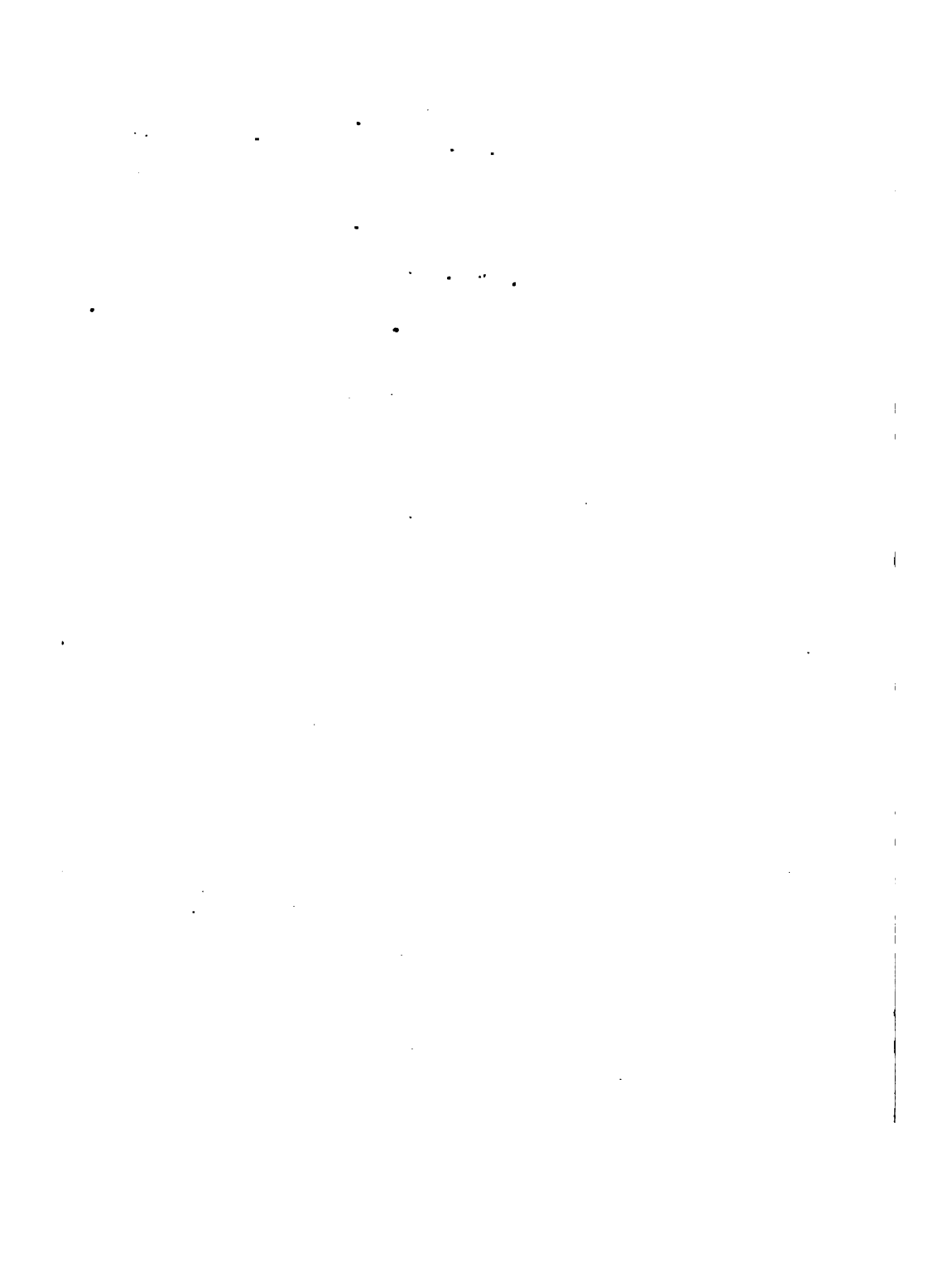
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

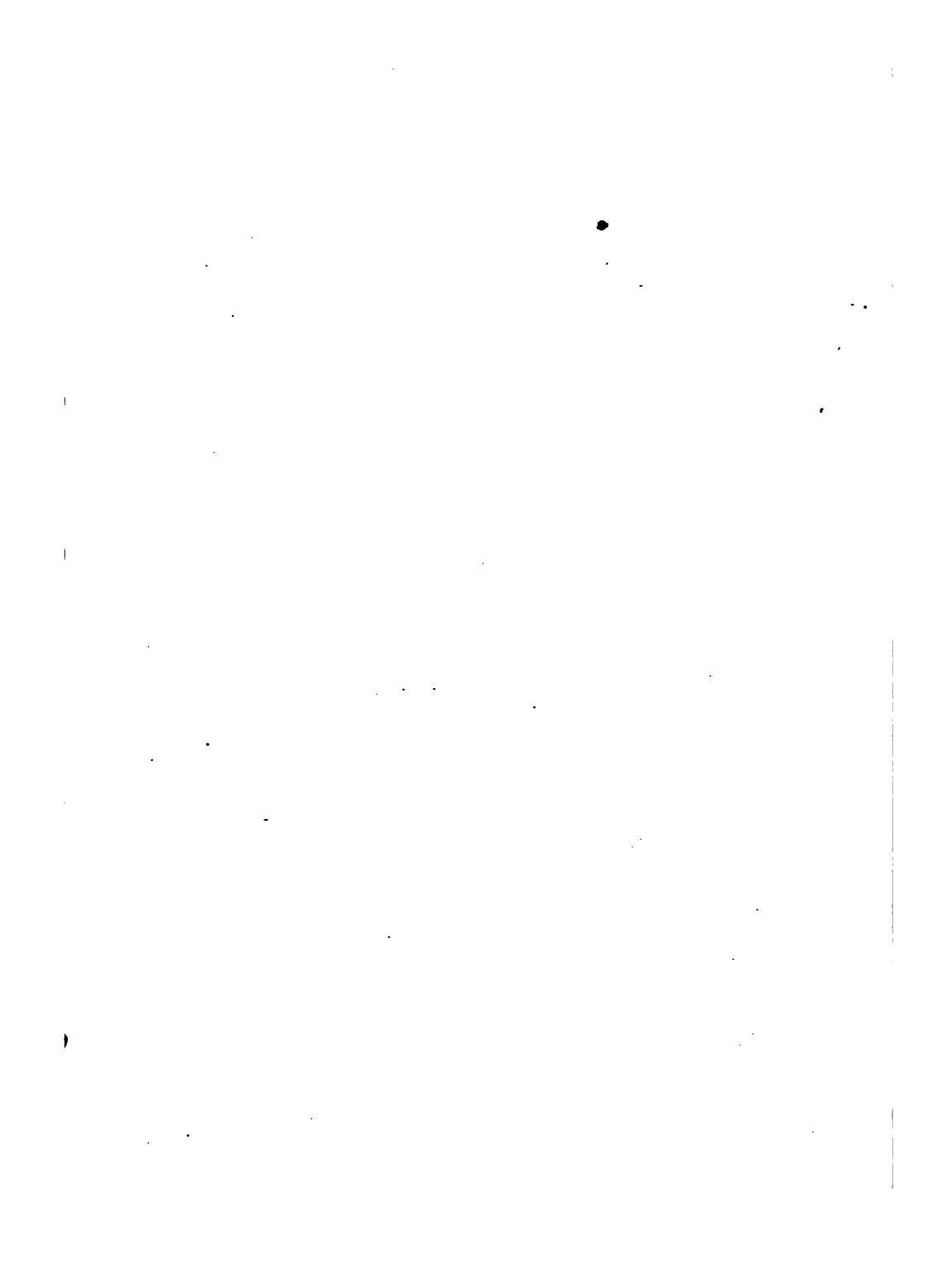
538.14
r. 9

02

338.14-5.9







Radcliffe Library -
from the Editor -
C u

Cambridge Mass. U.S.A.

Sept 5. 1873 -

NEW ENGLAND'S TRIALS

WRITTEN BY

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH

A REPRINT OF THE RARE FIRST EDITION OF 1620

WITH A PREFATORY NOTE



By CHARLES DEANE

CAMBRIDGE

PRESS OF JOHN WILSON AND SON

1873.

*Arch Bodl B.
III. 38*



FIFTY COPIES PRINTED.

PREFACE TO THIS EDITION.

ON my first visit to the Bodleian Library at Oxford, in 1866, the first book I asked to look at was Hariot's *Virginia*, 1588; and the second was the first edition of Captain John Smith's "*New England's Trials*," 1620, both of which I had understood to be in that library. These books are of exceeding rarity; and though the British Museum also has a copy of each, I am not aware that either can be found in this country. I had for some years possessed a copy of the second edition of the "*Trials*," 1622, which is the one usually cited. Considerable additions were made to the second edition. The first contains only eight leaves of text, while the second contains fourteen. Neither edition is paged. By the phrase "*New England's Trials*," the author does not mean New England's afflictions or sufferings, but the *attempts* or *experiments* made in the prosecution of voyages thither for settlement or for fishing. The book was published four years after his "*Description of New England*," in which he gives an account of his only visit here two years before.

There is nothing in either edition to indicate that a map was published with it; yet it seems most probable

that Smith's map of New England, first issued in the "Description of New England," 1616, was reissued in both. The map is found in some of his later publications, and was also inserted as late as 1635 in Sparks's "Historia Mundi." The result of a collation of many copies of the map, by Mr. Lenox and myself, has shown that it was issued in at least nine different conditions, all from the same copperplate, but additions and alterations were made in the plate from time to time at subsequent issues of the map. The map was first published in its simplest form in the "Description of New England," 1616. One of these may be seen in a copy of this tract in the Prince Library. The second issue of the map, it is conjectured, was published in the "New England's Trials" of 1620. On this the date "1614," the year of Smith's visit to New England, was introduced under the scale of leagues, as are "P. Travers" and "Gerrard Isles," near Pembrock's Bay. These, so far as observed, are the only additions to the map in its second stage. A lithographic *fac-simile* of the map in this stage (except that a number of ships in the body of it are wanting) is prefixed to the reprint of Smith's "Advertisements," in 3 Mass. Hist. Coll., iii. 1.

This reprint of "New England's Trials" is made from a transcript taken from a copy of the original tract in the Bodleian Library. It is reprinted page for page according to the original. The vignettes and the ornamented initial letters are not *fac-similes*, but are selected from Mr. Wilson's font. The copy of this tract in the

British Museum is dedicated "To the Right Worshipful the Maister, the Wardens, and the Companie of the Fish-mongers"; but the language of the dedication is the same, line for line, as that in the Bodleian copy.

It is quite unnecessary to dwell here on the well-known career of Captain Smith. After living about two years and a half in Virginia, he left that settlement in 1609, "about Michaelmas" (the last of September), for England, never to return. We hear little further of him till, in 1614, he embarked for New England, then called North Virginia, "with two ships, sent out," as he says, "at the charge of Captain Marmaduke Roydon, Captain George Langam, M. Iohn Buley, and W. Skelton," merchants of London. "I went from the Downs the third of March, and arrived in New England the last of April, where I was to have stayed but with ten men to keep possession of those large territories." (*New England's Trials, second ed.*) He failed in making a settlement, and returned on the 18th of July, arriving at Plymouth the latter end of August. He brought back in the ship in which he sailed a large quantity of fish, furs, and oil, and a map of the country which he had drawn while there.

In March of the following year, 1615, Smith set sail from Plymouth with two vessels, fitted out by Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and others, for New England, where, "when the fishing was done, only with fifteen I was to stay in the country; but ill weather breaking all my masts, I was forced to return to Plymouth." The other

ship proceeded on her voyage. He then re-embarked on the 24th of June in a vessel of sixty tons, but was overtaken near Flores by some French men-of-war, and himself carried to France. The vessel escaped, but the voyage was overthrown. He returned to England before the close of the year. For these misfortunes he was commiserated by his employers. The Council for New England, in 1622, speak of the results of the voyage, as "the ruin of that poor gentleman, Captain Smith, who was detained prisoner by them [the French], and forced to suffer many extremities before he got free of his troubles." (*Ibid.*; *Briefe Relation*; *Description of New England*, p. 51.)

Smith never again embarked for New England. He says that great promises were held out to him by the Plymouth Company, or its members, but that they were never fulfilled. Two years later, under date of 1617, he says: —

"I being at Plymouth provided with 3 good ships, yet but fifteen men to stay with me in the country, was wind-bound three months, as was many a hundred sail more; so that the season being past, the ships went for Newfound-land, whereby my design was frustrate, which was to me and my friends no small loss, in regard whereof here the Western Commissioners in the behalf of themselves and the rest of the Company, contracted with me by articles indented under our hands, to be Admiral of that Country during my life, and in the renewing of their Letters patents so to be nominated; half the fruits of our endeavours theirs, the rest our own; being thus ingaged, now the business doth prosper some of them would willingly forget me; but I am not the first they have deceived." (*New England's Trials*, second ed.)

In the last book which he wrote, published in 1631, the year of his death, in recurring to the year 1617, he says, "They promised me the next year twenty sail, well furnished, made me Admiral of the Country for my life, under their hands, and the Colony's Seal for *New England*; and in renewing their Letters Patents to be a Patentee for my pains, yet nothing but a voluntary fishing was effected for all this air." (*Advertisements for the Unexperienced Planters, &c.*, p. 16.)

From Smith's own account in the above extracts from his books, it would appear that he was made Admiral of New England in 1617; but on the title-page of his "Description of New England," published the year before, "At London, *printed the 18th of Iune*, in the yeere of our Lord, 1616," he styles himself "Admirall of that Country;" and this title, following his name, was also inscribed on the map which accompanied this tract. He nowhere in the text speaks of having had this title conferred upon him; but he says that, after his return from New England, and he had imparted his purposes relative to that country to Sir Ferdinando Gorges, and some others, at Plymouth, "I was so encouraged and assured to have the managing their authority in those parts, during my life, that I ingaged to undertake it for them" (p. 48).*

* I suppose Smith's appointment as "Admiral of New England"—of which Sir Ferdinando Gorges as well as The President and Council for the Affairs of New England, in their relations, are silent—had reference to his employment in New England. We have seen that his only visit here was a private venture; and that in his two attempts in the following year, when he

Although Smith seems to have failed in maintaining for himself the confidence either of the Plymouth or the London Company, and was never again employed in the service of either, he continued his interest in the colonization of both colonies, — at least he constantly sought employment, and wrote books and distributed them most liberally in furtherance of his objects.* In his “Generall Historie,” published in 1624, after citing largely from his “New England’s Trials,” he says: “Now all these proofs and this relation I now called New *England’s* trial. I caused two or three thousand of them to be printed; one thousand, with a great many maps both of *Virginia* and *New-England*, I presented to thirty of the chief Companies in *London*, at their Halls, desiring either generally or particularly (them

was sent forth principally at the charge of the Plymouth Co. or some of its members, he failed to reach the desired coast. Whatever privileges or honors (there were probably no emoluments) attached to the office of Admiral as held by him, they could not have been of long duration; at least, he was probably not re-appointed on the reorganization of the northern patentees, Nov. 3, 1620. But on the title-pages of most of the books subsequently issued under his name, there was added after it — “sometimes Governor of Virginia, and Admiral of New England.”

* Sometime in the year 1618, Smith addressed a letter to Lord Bacon (now preserved in the Public Record Office in London), in which he solicits his lordship’s patronage, “humbly desiring your Honor would be pleased to grace me with the title of your lordship’s servant.” He enlarges upon his own former services and sacrifices in the cause of colonization, and promises to effect great things towards this object if means and opportunity were provided him. He hopes his “poverty” may be no hindrance to the success of his application. He gives in the letter some statistics, showing the success which had attended the fishing-vessels sent to the coast of New England the previous four years, and much in the same language which he employs on the fourth and fifth pages of his “New England’s Trials,” published two years afterwards. (*Memorial Volume of the Popham Celebration*, App. pp. 104–107, Portland, 1863.)

that would) to imbrace it, and by the use of a stock of five thousand pound, to ease them of the superfluity of the most of their companies that had but strength and health to labour; near a year I spent to understand their resolutions, which was to me a greater toil and torment than to have been in *New England* about my business, but with bread and water, and what I could get there by my labour; but, in conclusion, seeing nothing would be effected, I was contented as well with this loss of time and charge as all the rest" (p. 230).

A brief summary of the condition of affairs as to the colonization of New England, from the time of the breaking up of the Popham Colony in 1608, to the settlement at Plymouth in 1620, will conclude this prefatory note. It is taken from Smith's "True Travels," published in 1630:—

"When I went first to the North part of *Virginia*, where the Westerly Colony had been planted, it had dissolved it self within a year, and there was not one *Christian* in all the land.* I was set forth at the sole charge of four merchants of *London*; the Country being then reputed by your westerlings a most rocky, barren, desolate desert; but the good return I brought from thence, with the maps and relations I made of the Country, which I made so manifest, some of them did believe me, and they were well embraced, both by the Londoners, and Westerlings, for whom I had promised to undertake it, thinking to have joyned them all together, but that might well have been a work for *Hercules*. Betwixt them long there was much contention; the Londoners indeed went bravely forward; but in three or

* Smith means that there was no settlement or colony of Christians there. He himself speaks of other fishing-vessels being on the coast at the time he was there.

four years, I and my friends consumed many hundred pounds amongst the *Plimothians*, who only fed me but with delays, promises, and excuses, but no performance of any thing to any purpose. In the interim, many particular ships went thither, and finding my relations true, and that I had not taken that I brought home from the French men, as had been reported; yet further for my pains to discredit me, and my calling it *New-England*, they obscured it, and shadowed it, with the title of *Canada*, till at my humble suit, it pleased our most Royal King *Charles*, whom God long keep, bless, and preserve, then Prince of *Wales*, to confirm it with my map and book, by the title of *New England*; the gain thence returning did make the fame thereof so increase that thirty, forty, or fifty sail, went yearly only to trade and fish; but nothing would be done for a plantation, till about some hundred of your Brownists of *England*, *Amsterdam*, and *Leyden*, went to *New-Plimouth*, whose humorous ignorances, caused them for more than a year, to endure a wonderful deal of misery, with an infinite patience; saying my books and maps were much better cheap to teach them, than my self; many other have used the like good husbandry that have payed soundly in trying their selfwilled conclusions; but those in time doing well, diverse others have in small handfulls undertaken to go there, to be several Lords and Kings of themselves, but most vanished to nothing," &c. (pp. 46, 47).

A little further on he says: "Now this year 1629, a great company of people of good rank, zeal, means, and quality, have made a great stock; and with six good ships, in the months of April and May, they set sail from [the] *Thames*, for the Bay of the *Massachusetts*," &c. They were bound for Salem, to supply Endicott, who had arrived there the year before; and they were followed the next year by the fleet under Winthrop.

SMITH'S
NEW ENGLAND'S TRIALS.

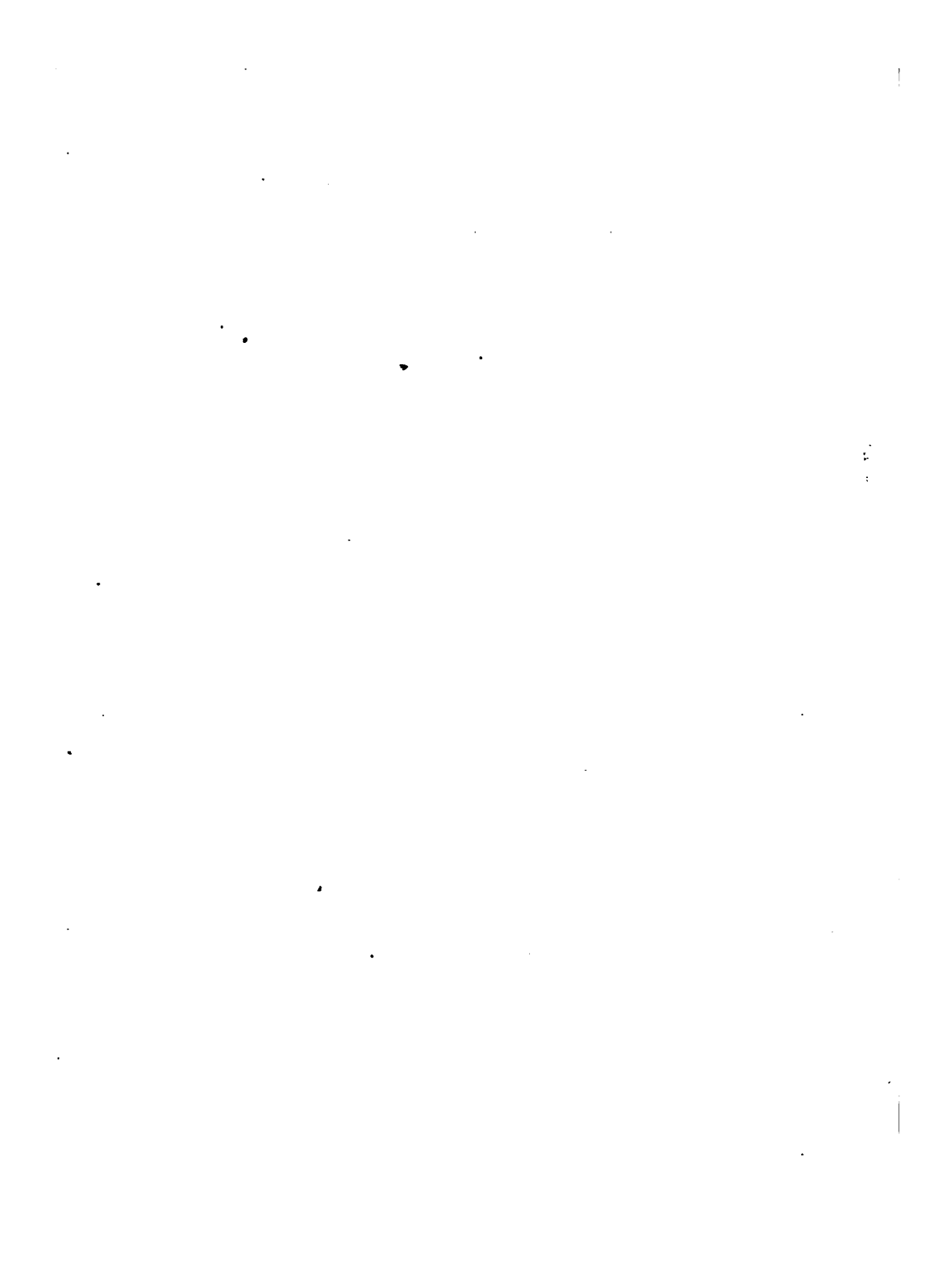
NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

Declaring the successe of 26 Ships
employed thither within these fixe yeares:
*with the benefit of that Countrey by sea and
land:* and how to build threescore sayle
of good Ships, to make a little
Navie Royall.

Written by Captaine
Iohn Smith.



London,
Printed by William Iones.
1620.





TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE AND

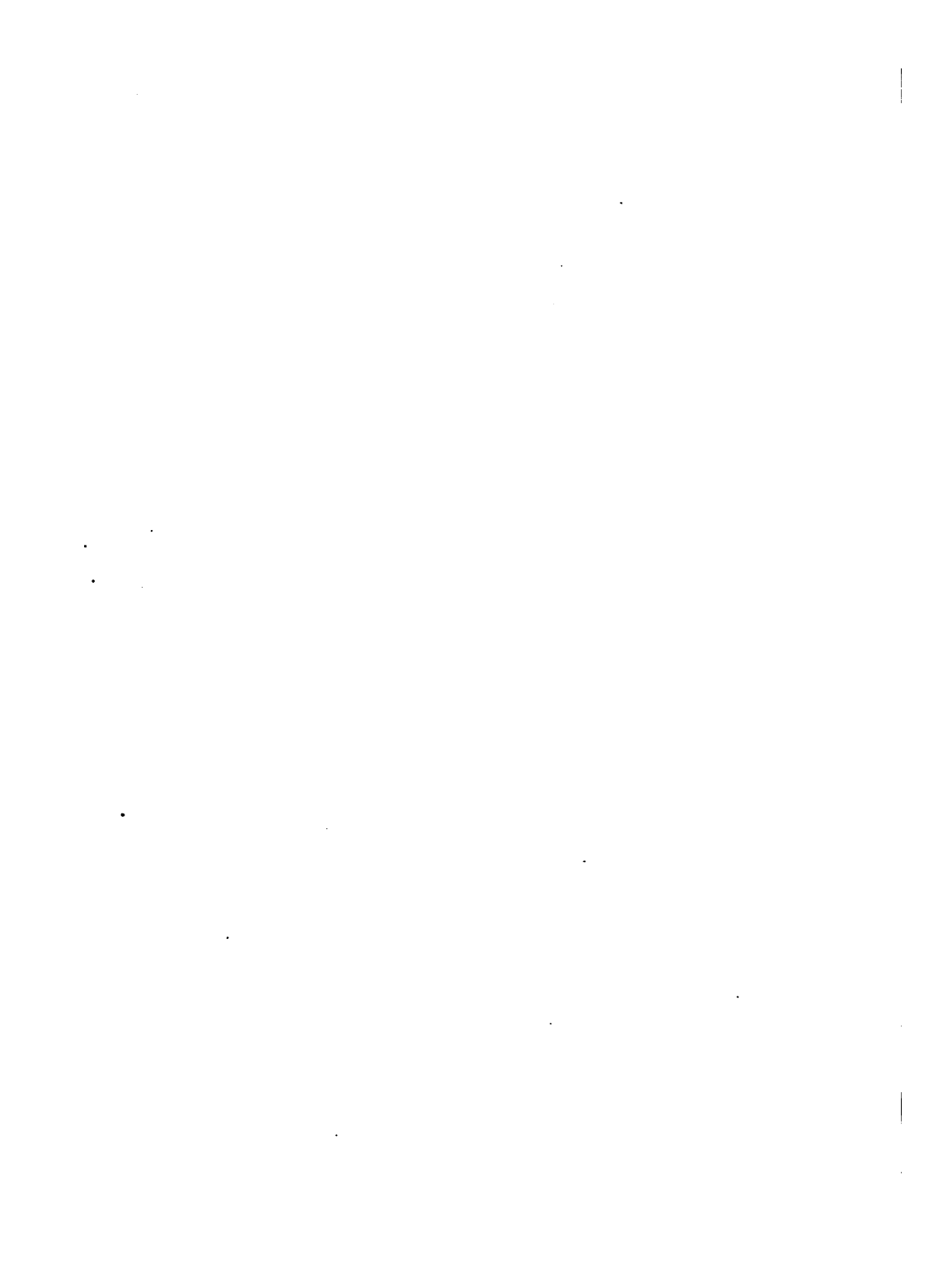
Worthy aduenterers to all discoueries and
Plantations espetially to New
England.



O the confideration of your fauourable constructions I present these fixe yeares continued trials from New England: if you please to peruse them, and make vse of them, I am richly rewarded. The subiect deserueth a farre better habit, but it is as good as the father can giue it. Let not therefore a souldiers plainnesse cause you refuse to accept it, how euer you please to dispose of him, that humbly sacreth himselfe and best abilities to his Countries good and the exquisite iudgement of your renowned perfections.

Yours to command,

IOHN SMITH.





NEVV ENGLANDS Trials.



ew England is a part of America betwixt the degrees of 41 and 45. the very meane betwixt the North Pole and the Line : From 43. to 45. the coast is mountainous, rockie, barren and broken Iles that make many good harbours. The water is deepe close to the shoare ; there are many riuers and fresh springs : few Saluages, but an incredible abundance of fish, fowle, wilde fruites, and good timber. From 43. to 41. and halfe, an excellent mixed coast of stone, sand, and clay : much corne, many people, some Iles, many good harbours, a temperate ayre, and therein all things necessarie, for the building ships of any proportion, and good merchandize for their fraughts ; within a square of twelue leagues 25. harbours I founded, thirtie seuerall Lordships I sawe, and so neare as I could imagine, three thousand men. I was vp one riuier fortie miles, crossed the mouths of many, whose heads are reported to be great Lakes ; where they kill their
Beuers,

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

Beuers; inhabited with many people, who trade. with those of New *England*, and them of *Cannada*.

*The benefite of Fishing, as that famous Philosopher
Master Dee reporteth in his Brittish
Monarchie.*

He saith, that more then forty foure yeares agoe, the Herring Busses out of the Low-countries, vnder the King of *Spaine*, were fīue hundred, besides one hundred Frenchmen, and three or foure hundred saile of Flemings.

The coasts of *Wales* and Lankashire was vsed by three hundred saile of strangers.

Ireland at *Ballemore* fraughted yerely three hundred saile of Spaniards, where King *Edward* the sixt intended to haue made a strong Castell because of the straite, to haue tribute for fishing.

Black Rocke was yearely fished by three or foure hundred saile of Spaniards, Portugalls and Bis-kiners.

M^r Gentleman and many Fisher-men and Fishmongers, with whom I haue conferred, report :

The Hollanders raise yearely by Herrings, Cod, and Ling, 3000000. pounds.

English, and French by Salt-fish, poore Iohn, Salmons and Pilchards, 300000. pounds.

Hambrough and the Sound, for Sturgeon, Lobsters and Eeles, 100000 pounds.

Cape Blanke, Tunny and Mullit by the Bis-kiners and Spaniards 30000. pounds.

But

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

*But diuers other learned experienced Obseruers
say though it may seeme incredible :*

That the Duke of *Medina* receiueth yearly tribute, of the Fishes of *Tunny*, *Mullit* and *Purgos*, more than 10000. pounds.

Lubeck hath seuen hundred shippes: *Hambrough* fixe hundred: *Embsden* lately a fisher towne, 1400, whose customes by the profit of fishing hath made them so powerfull as they be.

Holland and *Zeland*, not much greater then *Yorke-shire*, hath thirty walled townes, 400 villages, and 20000. sayle of ships and hoyes; 3600 are fishermen, whereof 100. are Dogers, 700 Pinckes and Welbotes, 700 frand botes, 400 Enaces, 400 galbotes, Britters and Todebotes, with 1300 Buffes; besides three hundred that yearly fish about *Yarmouth*, where they sell their fish for gold; and 15 yeares agoe they had more then 116000. sea-faring men.

These fishing ships do take yearly 200000 Last of fish, 12. barrells to a Last; which amounteth to 3000000. pounds by the Fishermens price, that 14 yeres agoe did pay for their tenths 300000. pounds; which venting in *Pomerland*, *Sprussland*, *Denmarke*, *Lefland*, *Russia*, *Suethland*, *Germany*, *Netherlands*, *England*, or elsewhere, &c. make their returns in a yeare about 7000000 pounds; and yet in *Holland* they haue neither matter to build shippes, nor merchandize to set them foorth, yet they as much encrease as other nations decay. But leauing these vncertainties as they are, of this I am certaine :

That

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

That the coast of *England, Scotland,* and *Ireland*, the north Sea, with *Island*, and the Sound, New-foundland, and Cape Blancke, doe serue all *Europe*, as well the land Townes as Portes, and all the Christian shipping, with these sorts of Staple fish which is transported; from whence it is taken, many a thous-and mile, *viz.*

Herring.
Salt-fish.
poore Iohn.
Sturgion.
Mullit.
Tunny.
Porgos.
Caviare.
Buttargo.

Now seeing all these sorts of fish, or the most part of them, may be had in a land more fertile, temperate, and plentiful of all necessaries for the building of ships, boates and houses; and the nourishment of man: the seasons are so proper, and the fishings as neare the habitations wee may there make, that New *England* hath much aduantage of the most of those parts, to serue all *Europe* farre cheaper then they can, who at home haue neither wood, salt, nor food, but at great rates; at Sea, nothing but what they carry in their shippes, an hundred or two hundred leagues from their habitation.

But New *Englands* fishings neare land, where is helpe of wood, water, fruites, fowle, corne, or other refreshings needefull; and the *Terceras, Mederas, Canaries, Spaine, Portugall, Prouance, Sauoy, Sicilia*, and all *Italy*, as conuenient markets for our dry Fish, greene fish, Sturgion, Mullit, Caviare, and Buttargo, as *Norway, Swethland, Littuania* or *Germany*, for their Herring, (which is here also in abundance, for taking;) They returning but wood, pitch, tarre, soape-ashes, cordage, flaxe, waxe and such like commodities: We, wines, oyles, sugars

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

gars, filkes, and such merchandizes as the Straites afford, whereby our profites may equalize theirs; besides the increase of Shipping and Mariners. And for proofe hereof:

With two shippes I went from the Downes, the third of March, and arriued in New England, the last of April. I had but fortie fve men and boyes, we built seven boates, 37 did fish; my selfe with eight others ranging the coast, I tooke a plot of what I could see, got acquaintance of the inhabitants, eleuen hundred beuer skinnes, one hundred Martins, and as many Otters: fortie thousand of dry fish we sent for Spaine, with the Salt-fish, treine oyle and furies, I returned for England the 18 of July, and arriued safe with my company the latter end of August. Thus in fixe moneths I made my voyage, out and home, and by the labour of 45. got neare the valew of fiftene hundred pounds in those grosse commodities. This yeare also one went from Pimmouth, spent his victuall, and returned with nothing.

Prooffe 1.
1614.

The Londoners, vpon this, sent foure good shippes, and because I would not undertake it for them hauing ingaged my selfe to them of the West, the Londoners entertained the men that came home with me; They set sayle in January, and arriued therein March: they found fish enough untill halfe Iune, fraughted a shippe of three hundred Tunnes; went for Spaine with drie fish, which was taken by the Turkes; one went to Virginia, to relieue that Collony; and two came for England, with the greene fish, treine oyle, and furies, within fixe moneths.

Prooffe 2.
1615.

With a labyrinth of trouble I went from Plimmouth with a shippe of two hundred Tunnes and one of fiftie;

Prooffe 3.
1615.

but

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

but ill weather breaking all my mastes, I was forced to returne to Plimmouth, where re-imbarking my selfe in a ship of three score tunnes, how I es-caped the English Pirates, and the French, and was betrayed by foure Frenchmen of warre, I referre you to the Description of New England; but my Vice-admirall, notwithstanding the latenessse of the yeare, setting forth with me in March, the Londoners in Ianuary, she arriued in May, they in March, yet came home well fraught in August, and all her men well, within fve moneths odde dayes.

- Proofe 4. *The Londoners, ere I returned from France, for all
1616. their losse by the Turkes, which was valewed about
foure thousand pounds, sent two more in Iuly: but such
courses they tooke by the Canaries to the West Indies; it
was ten months ere they arrived in New England: wa-
sting in that time, their seasons, victuall and healths:
yet they found meanes to refresh themselves and
the one returned, neere fraught with fish and traine,
within two moneths after.*
- Proofe 5. *From Plimmouth went foure ships, onely to fish and
1616. trade, some in February, some in March; one of two
hundred tunnes, got thither in a moneth, and went full
fraught for Spaine, the rest returned to Plimouth well
fraught, & their men well, within 5 months odde daies.*
- Proofe 6. *From London went two more, one of 220 tunnes,
1616. got thither in fixe weekes; and within fixe weekes after
with fortie foure men and boyes, was full fraught, and
returned againe into England within fve months and a
few dayes; the other went to the Canaries with dry fish
which they solde at a great rate, for royalls of eight, and
(as I heard) turned Pirates.*
- Proofe 7. *I being at Plimouth, provided with three good ships,
1617. was*

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

was wind-bound three months, as was many a hundred sayle more; so that the season being past, the shippes went for New found-land whereby my desseigne was frustrate, which was to me and my friends no small losse.

There was foure good shippes prepared at Plimouth; but by reason of their dis-agreement, the season so wasted, as onely two went forward, the one being of two hundred tunnes, returned well fraught to Plimouth, and her men in health, within five moneths; the other of foure score, went for Bilbow with dry fish, and made a good returne.

Prooffe 8.
1618.

This yeare againe, diuers shippes intending to go from Plimmouth, so dis-agreed, as there went but one of 200. tuns, who stayed in the Countrey about fixe weekes, with thirty eight men & boyes, had her fraght, which she sold at the first penny for 2100. pounds, besides the furies; so that euery poore sayler, that had but a single share, had his charges and fixteene pound ten shillings for his seven moneths worke: but some of the company say, for fixe months in the Hercules, they receeued seuentaene pound two shillings a share.

Prooffe 9.
1619.

For to make triall this yeare there is gone six or seven sayle from the west Country, onely to fish, three of which are returned; and (as I am certainly informed) haue made so good a voyage, that euery sayler for a single share had twenty pounds for his seven moneths worke, which is more then in twenty moneths he should haue gotten, had he gone for wages any where. Now though all the former ships haue not made such good voyages as they expected, by sending opiniated unskilfull men, that had not experienced diligence, to saue that they tooke

Prooffe 10.
1620.

nor

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

For this next
yeare 1621.
it is reported
12. or 20.
saile is a pre-
paring.

*nor take that there was; which now patience and pra-
ctise hath brought to a reasonable kinde of perfection in
despite of all Detractors, and Calumniationes, the coun-
try yet hath satisfied all, the defect hath beene in their
vsing or abusing it, not in it selfe, nor me.*

Heere I entreate your Honourable leaves to an-
swer some obiections. Many do thinke it strange,
if this be true, I have made no more use of it, and
rest so long without employment. And I think it
more strange they should tax me before they haue
tried what I haue done, both by sea and Land as
well in *Asia*, and *Affrica*, as *Europe* and *America*.
These fourteene yeres I haue spared neither pains,
nor money, according to my abilitie, in the disco-
uery of *Norumbega*, where with some thirty seauen
men and boyes, the remainder of an hundred and
fue, against the fury of the Saluages, I began that
plantation now in *Virginia*; which beginning (here
and there) cost mee neare fue yeares worke, and
more then fue hundred pound of my owne estate;
besides all the dangers, miseries and incomberances,
and losse of other employments I endured *gratis*.
From which blessed Virgin, where I stayed till I left
fue hundred English, better prouided then euer I
was (ere I returned) sprung the fortunate habitati-
on of *Somer Iles*.

Bermudas.

This Virgin's sister (called *New England*, an. 1616
at my humble suite, by our most gracious Prince
Charles) hath beene neare as chargeable to mee and
my friends; from all which although I neuer got
shilling but it cost mee a pound, yet I think my
selfe

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

ſelfe happy to ſee their proſperities.

If it yet trouble a multitude to proceede vpon theſe certainties, what thinke you I vndertooke, when nothing was knowne, but that there was a vaſte Land? I neuer had power or meanes to do any thing (though more hath beene ſpent in formall delayes then would haue done the buſineſſe) but in ſuch a penurious and miſerable maner, as if I had gone a begging to builde an Vniuerſity; where, had men bin as forward to aduenture their purſes, as to crop the fruites of my Labours, thouſands ere this, had bene bettered by theſe deſignes. Thus betwixt the ſpurte of Deſire and the bridle of Reaſon, I am neare ridden to death in a ring of Deſpaire; the reines are in your hands, therefore I entreate you to eaſe mee: and thoſe blame mee (beleue) this little may haue taught me, not to be ſo forward againe at euery motion, vnleſſe I intended nothing but to carry newes. For now they dare aduenture a ſhippe, that, when I went firſt, would not venture a groat, ſo they may be at home againe by Michaelmaſſe; but to the purpoſe.

By this all men may perceiue the ordinary performance of this voyage is ſiue or fixe moneths, the plenty of fiſh is moſt certainly approoued; and it is certaine from *Canada* and *New England* hath come neare twenty thouſand Beuer ſkinnes, within theſe ſiue yeares. Now, had each of thoſe ſhippes transported but fixe or three pigs, as many goates and hens, fruits, plants and ſeeds as I projected; by this time there might have beene victuall for a thouſ-and men. But the deſire of preſent
gaine

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

gaine (in many) is so violent, and the indeuours of many vndertakers so negligent, euery one so regarding his priuate, that it is hard to effect any publique good, and impossible to bring them into a body, rule, or order, vnlesse both Authoritie and Mony assist experiences: it is not a worke for euery one to plant a Colonie (but when a house is built, it is no hard matter to dwell in it.) This requireth all the best parts of art, iudgement, courage, honesty, constancy, diligence and experience to doe but neare well: and there is a great difference betwixt Saying and Doing. But to conclude, the fishing will go forward if you plant it or no; where by you may transport a colony for no great charge, that in a short time, might prouide such fraughts, to buy of us their dwelling, as I would hope no ship could goe or come emptie from *New England*.

The charge of this is onely salt, nettes, hookes, lines, kniues, Irish rugges, course cloth, beads, hatchets, glasse and such trash, onely for fishing and trade with the Saluages, besides our owne necessarie prouisions, whose indeuours will quickly defray all this charge; and the Saluages haue intreated me to inhabit where I will. Now all those ships haue bin fished within a square of two leagues & not one ship of all these, would yet aduenture further, where questionlesse 500 saile may haue their fraught, better then in *Island, Newfoundland*, or elsewhere, and be in their markets before the other can haue their fish in their ships. Because *New Englands* fishing beginneth in mid-February the other not till mid-Maie, the progression hereof tends
much

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

much to the aduancement of *Virginia*, and the *Burmudas* : and will be a good friend in time of need to the Inhabitants in *New-found-land*.

The returnes made by the Westerne shippes are commonly diuided into 3 parts; one for the owners of the shippe, another for the maister and his company, the third for the victulers; which course being still permitted will be no hinderance to the plantation, goe there neuer so many, but a meanes of transporting that yearely for little or nothing, which otherwife will cost many a hundred of pounds.

If a ship can gaine, twenty, thirty, fifty in the hundred, nay neare three hundred for 100 in seuen moneths, as you see they haue doone, spending twice so much time in going and coming as in staying there: were I there planted, seeing the varietie of the fishings in their seasons, serueth the most part of the yeare; and with a little labour we might make all the salt we neede vse. I can conceive no reason to distrust, but the doubling and trebling their gaines that are at all the former charge, and can fish but two months in a yeare: and if those do giue twenty, thirty, or forty shillings for an acre of land or ship Carpenters, Forgers of yron &c. that buy all things at a deare rate, grow rich, when they may haue as good of all needfull necessaries for taking (in my opinion) should not grow poore; and no commoditie in *Europe* doth more decay then wood.

Maister *Dee* recordeth in his *Brittish Monarchie*, that King *Edgar* had a nauie of foure thousand saile
with

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

with which hee yearely made his progresse about this famous Monarchy of Great *Brittany*, largely declaring the benefit thereof: wherevpon it seems he projected to our most memorable Queene *Elizabeth*, the erecting of a Fleete of three score saile, he called a little Nauy Royall; imitating the admired *Pericles* prince of *Athens*, that could neuer secure that tormented estate, vntill he was Lord and Captaine of the Sea.

At this none neede wonder, for who knowes not, her Royall Maiestie during her life, by the incredible aduentures of her Royall Nauy and valiant Souldiers and Sea-men; notwithstanding all tracheries at home, the protecting and defending *France* and *Holland*, and reconquering *Ireland*, yet all the world, by Sea or Land, both feared, loued, and admired good Queene *Elizabeth*.

Both to maintaine and increase that incomparable honour (God be thanked) to her incomparable Successeur, our most Royal Lord and Soueraigne King *James*, &c. this great Philosopher hath left this to his Maiesty and his kingdomes considerations.

That if the tenths of the Earth be proper to God, it is also due by sea, the Kings highways are common to passe, but not to digge for mines or anie thing, so *Englands* coasts are free to passe, but not to fish, but by his Maiesties prerogative.

His Maiestie of *Spaine*, permits none to passe the Popes order for the East and West *Indies*, but by his permission or at their perills. If all that world be so iustly theirs, it is no iniustice for *England* to make

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

as much vse of her owne, as strangers doe, that pay to their owne Lords the tenth, and not to the owners of those Liberties any thing, whose subiects may neither take nor sell any in their territories; which small tribute, would maintaine his little Nauy Royall, and not cost his Maiesty a penny; and yet maintaine peace with all forrainers, and allow them more curtesie, then any Nation in the world affords to *England*.

It were shame to alledge, that *Holland* is more worthy to enjoy our fishings as Lords thereof, because they haue more skill to handle it then we, as they can our wooll, and vndressed cloth, notwithstanding all their wars and troublesome disorders.

To get mony to build this Nauy he saith, Who would not spare the hundred penny of his Rents, and the 500 penny of his goods; each seruant that taketh 33.s. 4.d. wages, 4 pence, and euery forrainer feuen yeares of age, 4 pence yearely for 7 yeares; not any of these but yearely they will spend 3 times so much in pride, wantonneffe or some superfluity. And doe any men loue the security of their estates that are true subiects, would not of themselues be humble suters to his Maiestie, to do this of free will as a voluntary beneuolence, so it may be as honestly and truly employed as it is proiected, the poorest mechanicke in this Kingdome will gaine by it.

If this be too much, would the honorable Adventurers be pleased to moue his Maiestie, that but the 200 penny of Rents, and the thousandth peny of Goodes might bee thus collected to plant New *England*, and but the tenth fish there taken, leauing
strang-

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

strangers as they are. You might build ships of any burden and numbers you please, five times cheaper then you can doe heere, and haue good marchandize for their fraught in this unknowne Land, to the aduancement of Gods glorie, his church and Gospel, and the strengthening and reliefe of a great part of Christendome, without hurt to any: To the terror of Pirates, the amazement of enemies, the assistance of friends, the securing merchants and so much increase of Nauigation, to make *Englands* Trade and Shipping as much as any Nation in the world, besides a hundred other benefits, to the generall good of all true subiects, and would cause thousand yet vnborne, blesse the time, and all them that first put it in practise. Now, lest it should be obscured, as it hath bene, to priuate ends; or so weakely vndertaken, by our ouer-weening incredulitie, that strangers may possesse it, whilst we contend for New *Englands* goods, but not *Englands* good. I present this vnto your Lordship, and to all the Lords in *England*, hoping (by your honorable good liking and approbation,) to moue all the worthy Companies of this noble City, and all the cities and Countries in the whole Land to consider of it, since I can find them wood, and halfe victuall with the foresaid aduantages, with what facility they may build and maintaine this little Nauy Royall, both with honour, profite and content, and inhabit as good a countrey as any in the world, within that parallel, which with my life, and what I haue, I will indeuour to effect, if God please, and you permit.

As

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

As for them whom pride or couetoufnes lulbeth asleepe in a Cradle of slouthfull carelesseffe; would they but confider, how all the great Monarchies of the Earth haue been brought to confusion: or but remember the late lamentable experience of *Constantinople*; and how many Cities, Townes, and Prouinces, in the faire rich Kingdomes of *Hungaria*, *Transilvania*, and *Wallachi*; and how many thousands of Princes, Earles, Barons, Knights and Merchants, haue in one day lost goods, liues and honours: or solde for slaues, like beasts in a market place; their wiues, children & seruants slain, or wandering they know not whither: dying, or liuing in all extremities of extreame miseries and calamities. Surely, they would not onely doe this, but giue all they haue, to enjoy peace and libertie at home; or but aduenture their persons abroade, to preuent the conclusions of a conquering foe, who commonly assualteth, and best preuaileth, where he findeth wealth and plenty (most armed) with ignorance and securitie.

Much more I could say, but lest I should be too tedious to your more serious affaires, I humbly craue your honorable and fauorable constructions and pardons, if any thing be amisse.

If any desire to bee further satisfied, they may reade my *Description of Virginia*, and *New England*, and peruse them with their seuerall Mappes; what defect you finde in them, they shall finde supplied in mee, or in my Authors, that thus freely haue throwne my selfe, with my mite into the Treasury of my Countries good, not doubting but God will
stirre

NEW ENGLANDS TRIALS.

firre vp some noble ſpirits, to conſider and examine if *Collumbus* could giue the Spaniards any ſuch certainties for his deſſigne, when Queene *Iſabell of Spayne* ſet him forth with fiſteene ſaile: and though I can promiſe no mines of golde, yet the warrelike Hollanders let vs imitate, but not hate, whoſe wealth and ſtrength are good teſtimonies of their treaſure gotten by fiſhing. Therefore (honourable and worthy Countrymen) let not the meanneſſe of the word Fiſh diſtaſte you, for it will afford as good golde as the mines of *Guiana*, or *Tu-batu*, with leſſe hazard and charge, and more certaintie and facilitie: and ſo I humbly reſt.

Finis.

